

# PROGRESS REPORT: CALIFORNIA'S ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) INITIATIVE

JUNE 2014

Since November 2012, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) have been working with the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) to address the backlog of abandoned or improperly closed underground storage tanks (USTs).

## Achieving Compliance

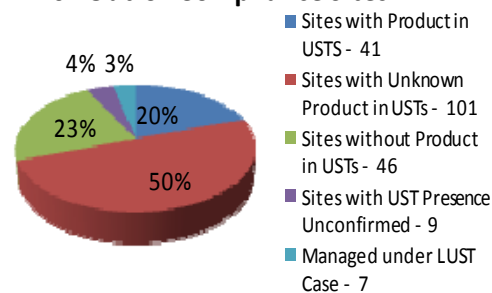
The State Water Board **obtained compliance at 40% of 339 Abandoned UST Sites** through regulatory actions, research, and data cleanup. See **Figure 1** for a statewide map and site inventory. The initial inventory included 323 sites, but Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) requested State Water Board assistance with 16 additional sites.

The State Water Board issued **179 Notices of Non-Compliance and followed up with Notices of Violation at 61 sites.**

Property owners removed more than 70 USTs from 31 sites. Property owners of 36 sites claimed financial hardship. The State Water Board is assisting these owners with accessing funding programs, including the Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF) and Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Storage Tank (RUST) Loan and Grant Programs. For progress on the counties with the highest concentration of sites (Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Fresno), see Figures 2, 3, and 4.

**135 Abandoned UST Sites have achieved compliance, including the removal of more than 70 USTs.**

## 204 Out-of-Compliance Sites



## Developing Tools

The State Water Board created a new Site/Facility Type category in the regulator side of its GeoTracker Database to monitor the Abandoned UST Sites. U.S. EPA's contractors regularly update site progress and correspondence with site owners.

To assist with addressing the backlog of Abandoned UST Sites, the State Water Board developed the following tools:

- State Notice of Non-Compliance and

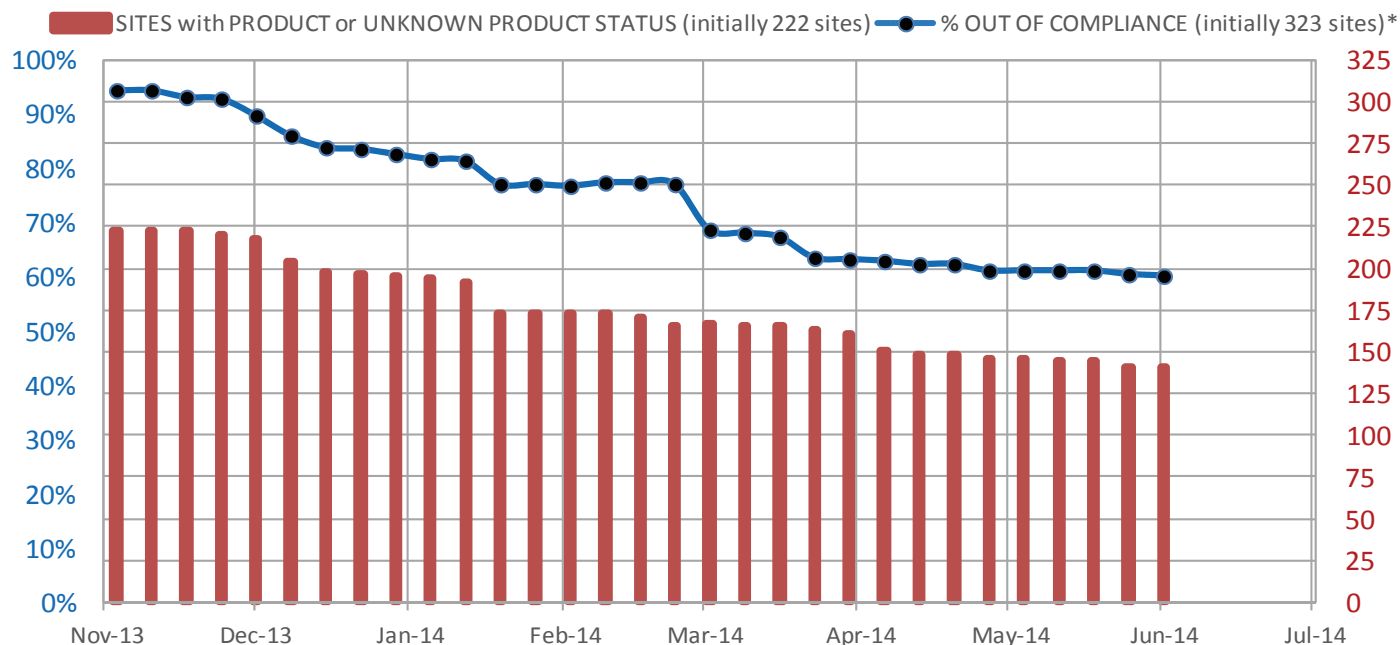
Notice of Violation Templates.

- Right-of-Entry Template.
- Guidance Packet for Owners Claiming Financial Hardship.
- Tank Owner Fact Sheet.
- Owner Interview Questionnaire.
- Phone Script for providing owners with consistent and thorough administrative and technical guidance.

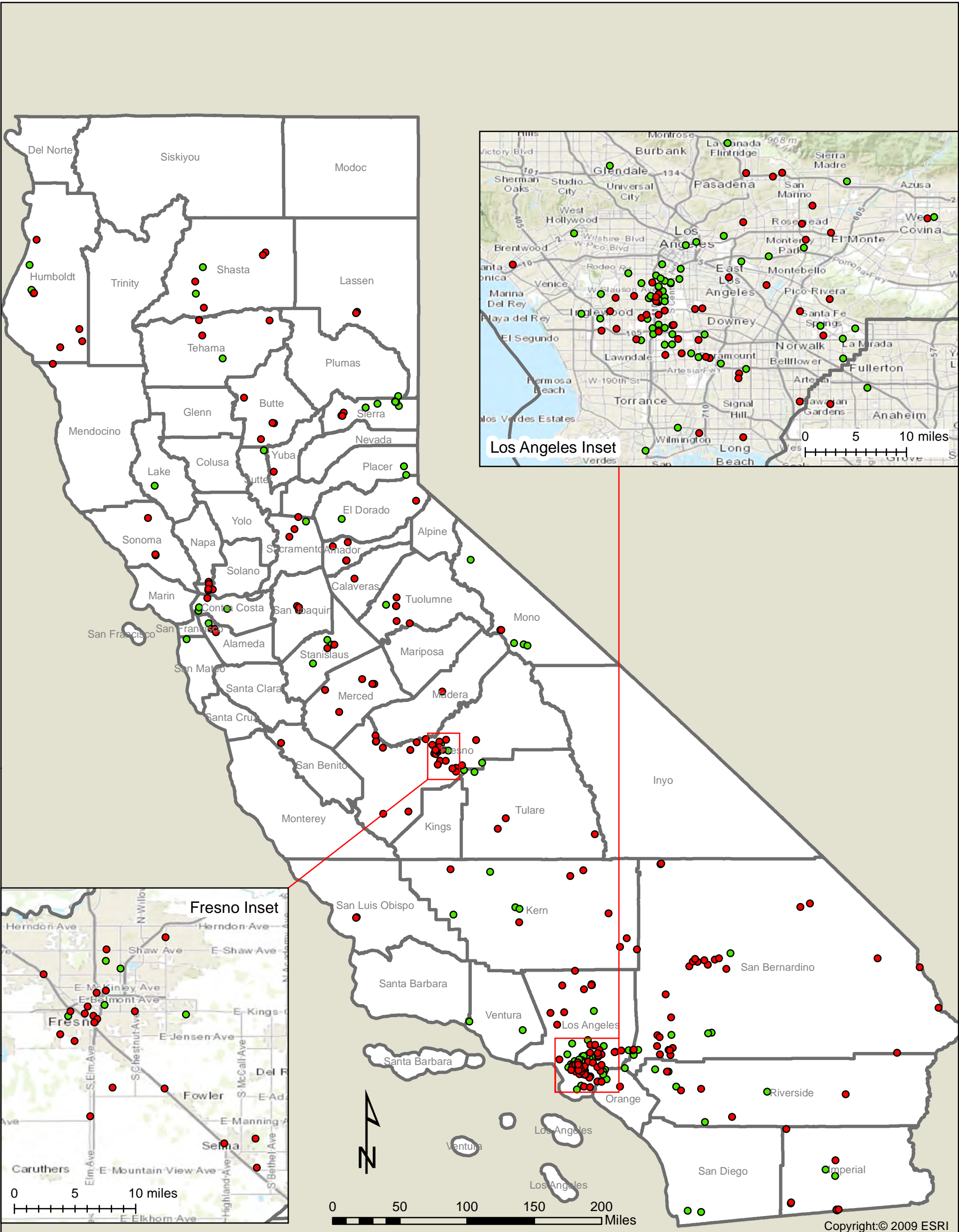
## Abandoned UST Initiative Goals:

1. Achieve compliance at all Abandoned UST Sites.
2. Determine whether abandoned USTs still contain product, and remove any product present.

## Abandoned UST Sites - Compliance Status



\*The initial Abandoned UST site inventory in April 2013 was 323 sites. As of November 2013, Out of Compliance sites had already fallen to 305 sites. Sixteen additional sites were reported by UPAs in 2013/2014 for a total of 339 sites--UPAs report additional sites as inspectors discover evidence of USTs, or after tank owners allow permits to lapse without seeking closure. The 16 "new" Out of Compliance sites reported make up 4.7% of the total site inventory tracked (339 sites).



- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (135)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (204)\*
- California County Boundary

Notes:  
\* Includes 9 sites where further investigation is needed to confirm the presence of abandoned USTs.

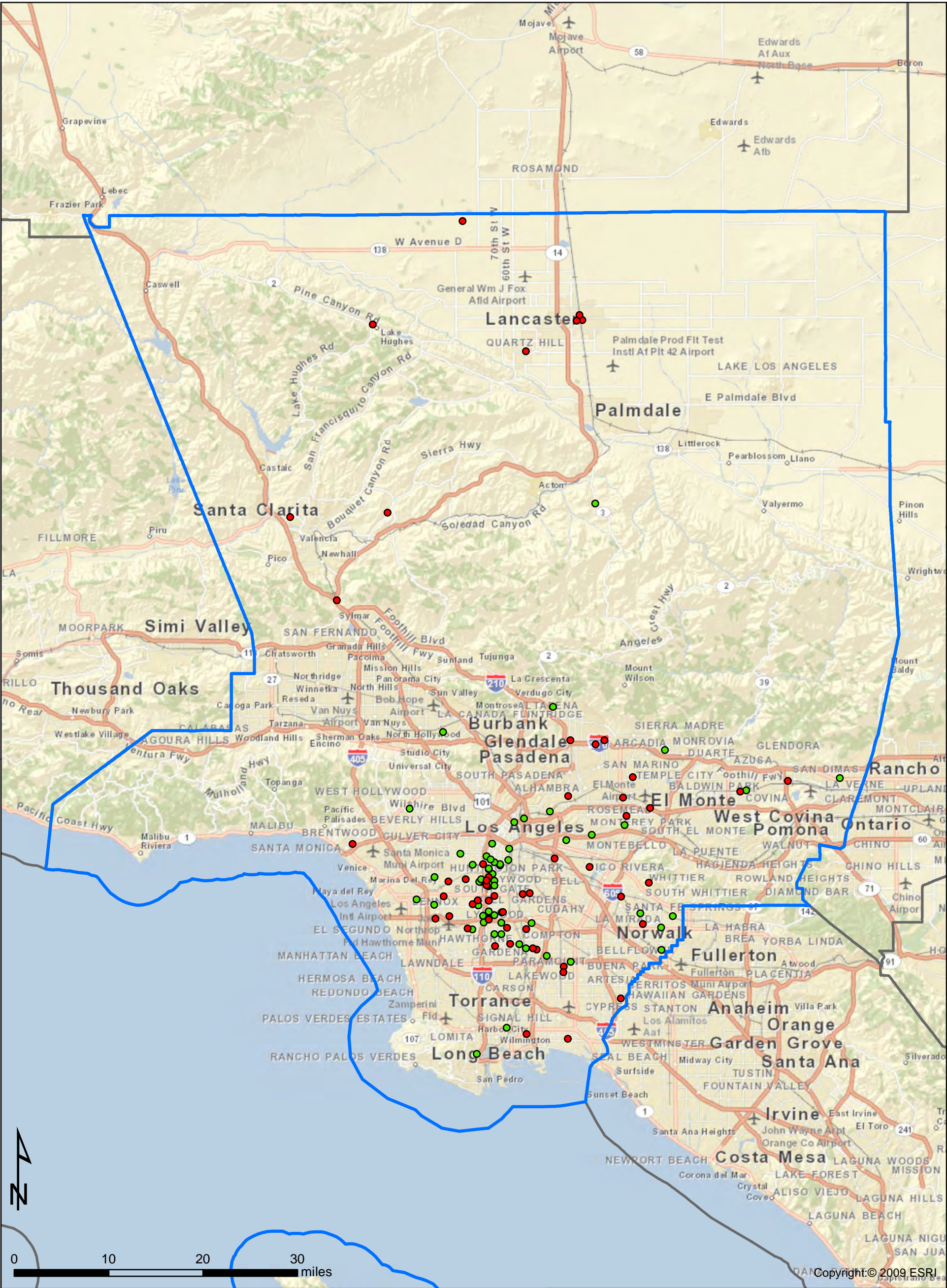
There were originally 323 Abandoned UST sites reported by the CUPAs. Fourteen additional sites were reported by CUPAs after the original inventory was created.

**FIGURE 1**

**California Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks--339 Sites**

**June 2014**





- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (58)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (55)\*

Los Angeles County Boundary

California County Boundary

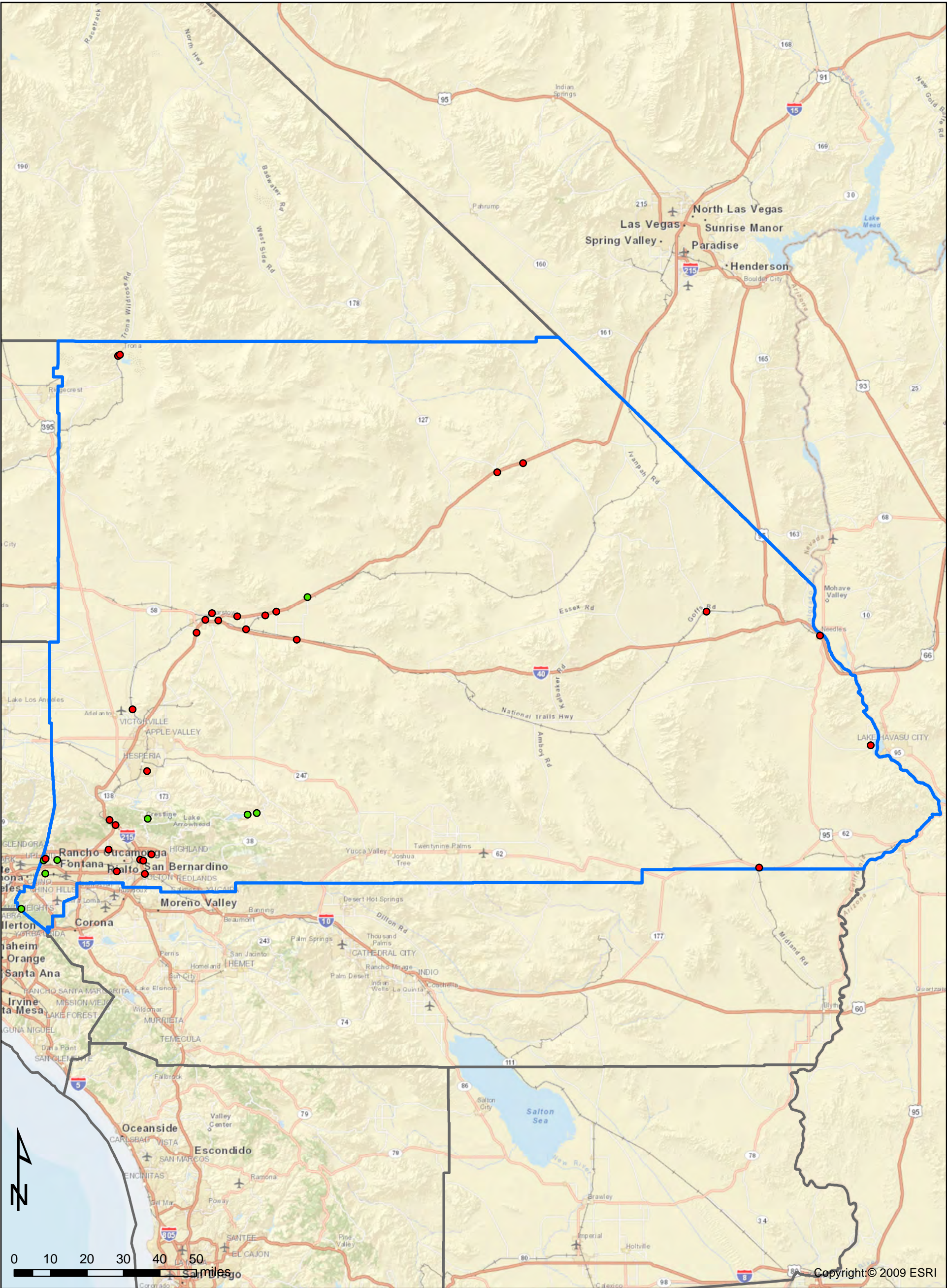
Notes:  
\* Includes 9 sites where further investigation is needed to confirm the presence of abandoned USTs.  
Includes all sites reported by UPAs with jurisdiction in Los Angeles County.

**FIGURE 2**

**Los Angeles County Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks--113 Sites**

**June 2014**





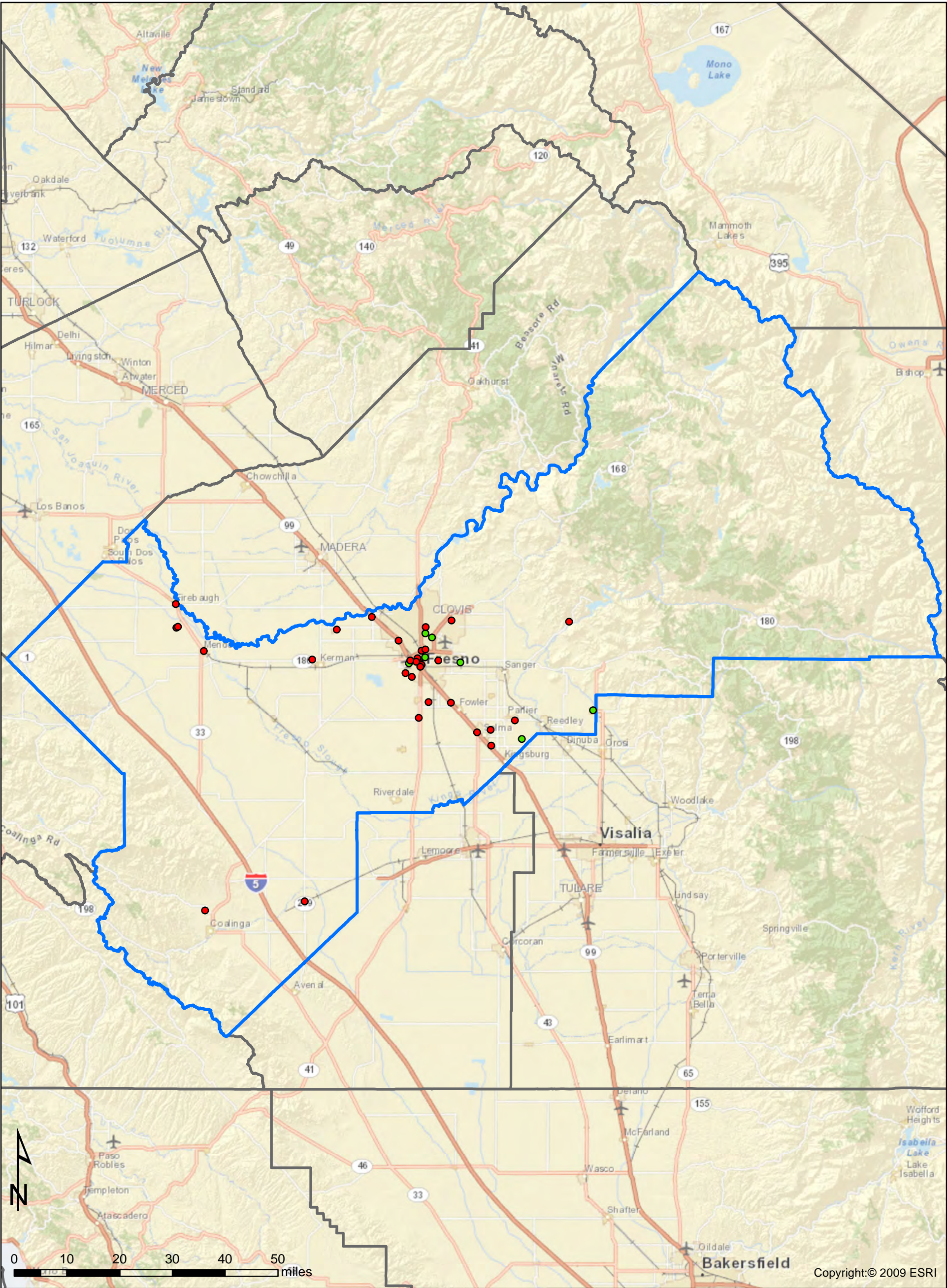
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (9)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (28)
- San Bernardino County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

**FIGURE 3**

**San Bernardino County Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks--37 Sites**

**June 2014**





- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (7)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (31)
- Fresno County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

**FIGURE 4**

**Fresno County Abandoned  
Underground Storage Tanks--38 Sites**

**June 2014**